

REMARKS

Applicants' attorney wishes to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given to this case. For convenience, the matters raised in the action are discussed below in the same order as presented by the Examiner.

As requested in paragraph 1 of the action, the omitted formula has been added to page 8 of the specification.

The rejection in paragraph 3(a) is overcome by amendment of claim 1 to recite "a solvent ionisable species". This provides antecedent basis for the later claim recitation.

Appropriate Markush language has been incorporated in claims 4, 7, 13 and 14 as requested in paragraph 3(b) of the action.

In response to the rejection in paragraph 3(c), claim 5 has been amended. For the Examiner's convenience, it is noted that the amendment is supported throughout the specification, for example, at page 15, lines 3 - 12 of the specification. As amended, it is believed clear that "C1 to C6" refers to the number of carbon atoms in the alkyl group.

In reply to the rejection in paragraph 3(d), claim 5 has been amended to delete the more narrow range and to include it in a new dependent claim 17. With respect to paragraph 3(e) of the action, claim 5 has also been amended to clarify that esters are from the

reaction of the ethers and alkylene glycols with saturated carboxylic acid. The ethers and glycols having a free OH group react with the acid to form an ester.

In reply to the rejection of the claims under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,247,801 to Trauernicht et al., applicants' perfect their claim for priority herein and remove the cited patent as a reference. Accordingly, an English language translation of French Patent Application No. 99 09946, filed July 30, 1999, is submitted together with the Declaration of the Translator. The rejection of the claims in paragraphs 4 - 5 is overcome.

The further rejection of the claims under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Trauernicht et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,510,415 to Zahrobsky et al. is overcome by perfection of the priority of this patent application. That is, the Trauernicht et al. patent is removed as a reference and the rejection in paragraphs 7 and 8 is overcome.

Applicants' acknowledge and appreciate the Examiner's comments in paragraph 9 of the action.

For all of the foregoing reasons, claims 1 - 17 presently of record are in condition for final allowance and such action is requested.

If there are any fees required by this
communication, please charge the same to Deposit
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Respectfully submitted,

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